

Indigenous Governance Awards 2008

Judging Panel

Mick Dodson AM (Chairman)



Professor Mick Dodson is a member of the Yawuru peoples, the traditional Aboriginal owners of land and waters around Broome. He is Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Australian National University and Professor of law at the ANU College of Law. A Board member of

Reconciliation Australia and the Lingjari Foundation, Mick was a founding member and Chairman of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre. He is Chairman of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Mick has recently been reappointed a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (until 2010). He helped craft the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, overwhelmingly adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. Previously Mick was Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (April 1993 to January 1998), was Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and was Director of the Northern Land Council.

Leah Armstrong



Leah Armstrong has been a founding Director and employee of Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation since its establishment in 1992, and is currently its Executive Director. She assists Yarnteen to expand its commercial ventures and to encourage further economic opportunities for

associate organisations. Leah actively promotes the need for Indigenous communities to be more proactive in establishing successful economic ventures. Other Directorships and committee appointments include Indigenous Business Australia (since 2001), Chair of the Aboriginal Business Roundtable NSW and member of the Board of Vocational Education and Training NSW.

Gary Banks



Gary Banks has been Chairman of the Productivity Commission since its inception in April 1998 and has headed national inquiries on a variety of public policy and regulatory topics. Gary also chairs the inter-governmental steering committee for the Review of Government Service Provision which produces the annual

Report on Government Service Provision and the two yearly report *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*. Previously he worked at the Centre for International Economics and has consulted for the OECD and World Bank. He was also a member of the GATT Secretariat in Geneva and Visiting Fellow at the Trade Policy Research Centre, London.

Eddie Cubillo



Eddie Cubillo is an Aboriginal man with strong family links throughout the Northern Territory. He works as a policy officer in the Aboriginal Affairs Division of the South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet and has more than 15 years experience in the Northern Territory Government working at the grass roots

of Aboriginal affairs. He obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 2001 and the following year was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. He was elected to the ATSIC Yilli Rreung Regional Council in 2002 and subsequently became the Chair. He has also been the Chair of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (NT).

Allan James



Allan James is currently Indigenous Affairs Coordinator with BHP Billiton Nickel West. He is responsible for the coordination of its Indigenous Participation Strategy that effectively delivers employment, training, business development and outcomes with Indigenous communities in the regions in

which Nickel West operates. His work involves fostering community inter-relationships and cross cultural understanding. Allan previously worked with Argyle Diamonds in the East Kimberley, primarily responsible for Indigenous business development in line with Argyle's Regional Participation Agreement.

Simon Longstaff



Dr Simon Longstaff is Executive Director of St James Ethics Centre, an independent forum that examines ethical issues arising in Australian society and abroad. A philosopher with a particular interest in ethics, Simon has worked on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria and has worked and studied in

NSW, Tasmania and Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Heather Ridout



Heather Ridout is Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group with responsibility for the overall development and implementation of the Australian Industry Group's policies, strategies and services. Heather has been particularly active in developing AIG's public policy in relation to

economic, industry, innovation, education and training. She was recently acknowledged as one of Australia's top 25 leaders in the Australian Financial Review's Boss Magazine.

Kerrie Tim



Kerrie Tim is a Senior Executive in the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. A graduate of the University of Queensland, Kerrie has spent 20 years in various public sector departments including the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services and its predecessor,

ATSIC, the Australian Public Service Commission, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Education. Kerrie is actively committed to social justice and for the past 15 years has focussed her efforts on ending racism and developing leaders. She has represented Australian governments in the Philippines, United States and Canada and at high level workshops on ending racism in South Africa, Israel, and New Zealand. Kerrie is a former Director of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre and the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee.